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S E C R E T OTTAWA 002355

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NP/RA, NP/MNA, IO/T, NEA/NGA, DRL AND WHA/CAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/18/2013

TAGS: [KNNP](#) [PHUM](#) [IR](#) [CA](#) [IAEA](#)

SUBJECT: IRAN: CANADA WOULD SUPPORT IAEA NON-COMPLIANCE
RESOLUTION, STILL REVIEWING OVERALL RELATIONSHIP IN WAKE OF
JOURNALIST'S DEATH

REF: (A) OTTAWA 2115 (B) OTTAWA 2109

Classified By: Political Minister Counselor Brian Flora,
Reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

SUMMARY

[11.](#) (C) Canada's Foreign Ministry (DFAIT) informed us on August 15 that should the USG decide to press for a resolution of non-compliance at the September IAEA Board of Governors meeting, Canada will "fully and actively" support us. Foreign Minister Graham has written to IAEA DG El Baradei, urging him to take a tough approach in his report on Iran's nuclear program. The case of Canadian photojournalist Zahra Kazemi, who died in Iranian custody in June, continues to be a flash point for reformists and conservatives in Tehran. Iran's inquiry into Zazemi's death and Canada's review of the bilateral relationship (also looking at the nuclear issue) are still ongoing. END SUMMARY.

IAEA

[12.](#) (C) On August 12, FM Graham signed a letter to IAEA DG El Baradei expressing Canada's deep concern over the Iranian nuclear program, which poses a "grave challenge to regional and international peace and security." Graham's letter tells El-Baradei that Canada and other countries have bent over backwards in funding IAEA verification and safeguards, and that the Agency in turn must be prepared to use all the means at its disposal in Iran, including special inspections.

[13.](#) (S) Graham also informed El Baradei that arrangements are being made for Canada to share sensitive information on Iran (ref. A) with the IAEA in time to be taken into account in the August 25 report. Terry Wood, DFAIT Deputy Director for Non-Proliferation, told us that the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) recently signed an information sharing agreement with the IAEA, and that CSIS would send a high-level official to Vienna in September to launch this process. In the meantime, CSIS would provide some "very fresh information" on Iran's nuclear program to the IAEA Secretariat through British or U.S. officials.

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[14.](#) (C) DFAIT Iran Desk Officer Chrystiane Roy told us that Iran's internal debate continues over whether to sign an additional protocol. She said that reformists were trying to decide whether signing the protocol would relieve external pressure, while Ayatollah Khameni did not care what the rest of the world thought on this issue. Roy speculated that the government might try to sidestep Khameni through de facto implementation of an additional protocol without actually signing.

[15.](#) (C) Wood noted that an effort to adopt a resolution of non-compliance at the BOG meeting might not be successful, but that the onus should be on others to show why this should be put off. Should a resolution not be possible, Wood continued, we might pursue two interim steps: invoking Article 18 of Iran's safeguards agreement and/or Article 77. Wood felt these steps would keep the heat on Iran and build momentum in the BOG.

KAZEMI INQUIRY

[16.](#) (C) In the Kazemi case (ref. B), Roy told us that Canada's Ambassador remains in Ottawa and that the bilateral relationship is still under review. Of the five officials Iran detained in July in connection with Kazemi's death, two female prison officials were released on bail. The other three, all from the Ministry of Intelligence, apparently remain in custody. Judge Esmaili has not yet issued his report on Kazemi's death. Roy said that Esmaili has a fairly good reputation, and is perceived as neutral in the battle between reformists and conservatives.

17. (C) Roy said that the Kazemi case continues to attract much attention in the Iranian parliament and media. She noted that at an annual demonstration held in early August to remember the death of Iranian journalists at the hands of the Taliban, the journalists also commemorated the death of Kazemi. Some Iranian MPs, she continued, have called for the prosecution of Tehran Prosecutor General Mortazavi, who was present during Kazemi's interrogation.

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